

moving the baffle plates toward or away from one another.

4. (Cancelled) The method of claim 1, further characterized by the step of:
moving the baffle plates toward or away from one another with axial symmetry.

5. (Cancelled) The method of claim 1, further characterized by the step of:
removing air from a volume of the interior of the drum between the two baffle plates.

6. (Cancelled) A method for controlling the amount of perforated surface area on a perforated cylindrical outer surface of a hollow cylindrical drum having an inner surface, through which air can be drawn into the hollow cylindrical drum to provide a suction adhering surface for holding elastomeric sheet materials on the outer surface of the drum, the method characterized by the steps of:

providing, within the drum, a circumferentially moveable curved cylinder element conforming to the inner surface of the perforated cylindrical drum; and

controlling the amount of perforated surface area through which air can be drawn into the hollow cylindrical drum by circumferentially positioning the curved cylinder segment adjacent a portion of the inner surface of the hollow perforated cylindrical drum.

7. (Cancelled) The method of claim 6, further characterized by the step of:

providing two axially movable disc-like baffle plates within the drum, each having a diameter substantially equal to the diameter of the drum; and

varying the axial positions of the baffle plates to control a portion of the surface area through which air can be drawn into the hollow cylindrical drum.

8. (Currently amended) Apparatus for controlling suction through perforations extending through a surface of a hollow cylindrical drum having an inner surface, the cylindrical drum being closed at opposite ends to prevent air flow into the drum through the opposite ends, a circumference and an axis of revolution, characterized by:

a circumferentially moveable cylindrically curved element disposed inside the hollow cylindrical drum and having an axis of rotation contiguous with the axis of the hollow cylindrical drum and having a length less than a length of a cylindrical volume inside the hollow cylindrical drum, the curved element conforming to the inner surface of the perforated cylinder drum and an outermost radius of curvature about equal to a radius of curvature of the inner surface of the hollow perforated cylindrical drum; and

axially moveable baffle plates disposed inside the drum to control a portion of the perforated surface between the baffle plates, each baffle plate having a radius of curvature